

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU
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MFL-5014
8 May 1985

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--April 1985

I. GENERAL

"What's new on the base housing project," you ask? Nothing! (So what else is new.) Contact at Naval Facilities Command, Charleston, S.C., advises that contract should go public on/about 17 May when bid solicitation is advertised in the "Commerce Business Daily." This means bid award is pushed back to about mid-July, yet another slippage of 3 weeks.

Bureau staffing complement was boosted during the month with the EOD of two contract teletypists and one staff monitor/editor. However, we lost the services of monitor/editor [redacted] who transferred to another component in mid-April. The search for qualified monitorial candidates continues.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Cuba's Fidel Castro continued his publicity effort by granting press conferences to the Mexican daily EXCELSIOR and to a group of journalists accompanying Ecuador's President Leon Febres Cordero during his low-key 3-day visit to Havana. Brother Raul and his traveling companion Vilma Espin wound up their lengthy tour of East Europe following Chernenko's funeral the previous month. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Malmierca toured Ethiopia, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and India.

Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid hosted visits by the presidents of Argentina, Colombia and Ecuador, while NOTIMEX reported extensively on the capture in Costa Rica of drug trafficker Caro Quintero, his deportation to Mexico and subsequent judicial procedures.

B. Communications

Coverage of the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) suffered during the month with outages on the landline circuit totaling almost 60 hours due to technical problems in New York. A formal complaint to CANA General Manager Harry Mayers elicited a letter from CANA to Reuters New York office requesting resolution of the line problem and consideration of a rebate due to unsatisfactory service.

C. Technical

STAT 1. Bureau monitoring equipment was temporarily installed at the Navy Communications Unit at NAS Boca Chica for a 3-day reception survey of the Navy's Hermes Loop Array antenna (a substitute for a Rhombic antenna system) by contract cruising monitor [redacted]. Detailed results of the survey were delivered to MOD and ED/FEB. Although several sectors of the antenna had technical problems, reception of shortwave targets proved significantly better with the Hermes than with existing bureau antennas. ED will advise on feasibility of installing a similar antenna on bureau site.

2. Further evaluation was made on our newest "experimental" 750-ft Beverage antenna. The 600-ft lead-in to bureau had no noticeable effect on reception. The lead-in cable will be buried in the near future to enhance reliability. Because of the significantly improved performance of this antenna on a number of our target stations, this new Beverage was substituted for the so-called "longwire No. 2" antenna which was disconnected.

3. Unattended weekend TV recordings with the Betamax VCR continue to suffer from erratic performance due to malfunctioning of the Auto-stacker unit. On three consecutive weekends the stacker failed to feed more than one additional tape into the unit. The dealer reports this problem is endemic to the unit and for this reason was discontinued by Sony (stacker supplied by Radio Marti for their Betamax suffers same problem). The poor audio quality of soundtracks recorded from Havana TV on the Betamax is further evidence that VCR's designed for home use are inadequate for recording of weak signals. One Betamax whose audio-squelch circuitry was disabled and whose sensitivity was cranked up to maximum levels still does not perform nearly as well as our old Videotek tuners. In an attempt to improve the quality of TV recordings the bureau's TV distribution system was again reconfigured so as to bypass the inadequate Sony tuners and input the signals directly onto the tape from our more sensitive equipment. One drawback of this method is that the procedures for unattended recordings have become more complex with greater likelihood of operator error. An expensive but desirable improvement would be to acquire two state-of-the-art crystal-controlled single frequency W-J receivers, although there may be less expensive equipment on the market capable of the same job.

4. To facilitate split coverage with Panama Bureau of those significant Cuban events broadcast only on domestic and not international frequencies, both bureaus dusted off the cobwebs of an old phone patch system which was tested successfully. Minor glitches with line connection and audio patch procedures have been resolved.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

STAT 1. Part-time teletypist [redacted] entered on duty 2 April.

STAT 2. Part-time teletypist [redacted] entered on duty 5 April.

STAT 3. Monitor/editor [redacted] departed PCS 12 April in transfer to another component.

STAT 4. Monitor/editor [redacted] entered on duty 29 April.

B. Building & Grounds

Problems with the fencing project have been resolved to bureau's satisfaction and contractor will initiate work in mid-May. The changes to original contract are minimal and will not result in a significant cost increase.

IV. VISITS

STAT 1. Monitor/editor [redacted] visited Headquarters on TDY 1-5 April for PCS processing.

STAT 2. Bureau Chief [redacted] visited headquarters on TDY 14-25 April to attend annual bureau chiefs' conference.

STAT 3. MOD staffer [redacted] arrived 25 April for 3 weeks of cruising training with [redacted]

4. Bureau chief visited Panama Bureau on TDY 29 April-2 May for joint orientation on ROSET operation and discussion of mutual problems.

STAT 5. Operations officer [redacted] and cruiser [redacted] on 17 April visited local COMUSFORCARIB J-2 commander who requested briefing on recent Cuban media behavior and anticipated fallout from Radio Marti startup.

6. On 22 April Navy Captain Leshack, CDR Charles Bledsoe, and USAF MSGT Obdulia Gamble visited bureau for orientation and viewing of recent Castro interview.

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Chief, Key West Bureau

Attachment:
Production Report

cc: C/Panama, C/Paraguay Bureaus

KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR APRIL 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 146,660

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 29,950

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 587

	BROADCAST	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK)	2,575 MIN	14,700 MIN	21 ISSUES

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

BAHAMAS

Nassau Domestic Service
in English-0--0-

BARBADOS

Bridgetown CANA
in English65,570910

Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English

-0-Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE
in English

BELIZE

Belize City Domestic Service
in English60

CUBA

Havana Domestic Service
in Spanish26,820Havana Television Service
in Spanish19,250

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo Radio Mil
in Spanish1,120

KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR APRIL 1985

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish	<u>1,650</u>
JAMAICA	
Kingston Domestic Service in English	<u>310</u>
Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English	<u>1,370</u>
Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English	<u>-0-</u>
MEXICO	
Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish	<u>24,930</u>
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	
Bonaire Trans World Radio in English	<u>3,650</u>
THE NETHERLANDS	
Hilversum International in English	<u>300</u>
OTHER SOURCES:	
MEXICO Mexico City International Service in Spanish	<u>460</u>
BELIZE Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English	<u>260</u>